

1915 - 2015: PCNS is celebrating 100 years!



1195th meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

7:30PM Wednesday November 25, 2015

**Share some pieces you are thankful for or
share a turkey!**

1194rd meeting, October 28, 2015

Mary Lannin presented her program: **Re-use of Seleucid Obverse Dies.**

Ancient sources provide little or no information about the administrative workings of the mints of the Seleucid kingdom. Mary examined several Seleucid tetradrachm pairings that provide interesting insights into use of transitional dies at some regional mints during the third and second centuries.

At the start of the Seleucid dynasty, only two mints were in operation: Babylon in Mesopotamia and the ancient city of Susa on the Iranian plateau. This lack of mints was addressed when additional locations were opened by Seleucus I in Antioch, Seleucia on the Tigris, and Ekbatana, in addition to over 20 regional or military mints. These regional mints were founded to address the needs for coinage in the rapidly growing empire.

Mary concluded:

1. Both time and distance appear to have strongly influenced the practices of die reuse.
2. The length of reign was also a factor because of the time required for the court to supply an official image and then for the likeness to be transmitted throughout the kingdom.
3. The size of a mint mattered. Smaller mints were involved in reuse of dies. Larger mints had permanent staff to engrave new dies as required after a change in rulers.
4. Dies were produced "out of order" in the sense that obverses were completed last, as reverses noted the name and title of the new ruler.
5. Convenience played a role as well in the minting of new coins following the change of ruler.

The news of a new king made the use of previous die pairs obsolete. Mint officials acted on new information and engraved reverse dies first to indicate the change in regime. After receiving an accurate portrait of the newest ruler, the new obverse die was engraved, and thus began the first new "official" issue from that regional mint, although coins using the hybrid previous obverse/new reverse actually began the series issued under the new ruler.

Exhibits:

Michael displayed gold and silver medals from the California State Agricultural Society.

Stephen shared an over-graded and overpriced corroded 1868 2 cent piece.

Ed exhibited two San Diego Point Loma lighthouse tokens and an Edward VII coronation medal.

Federico displayed a Guatemalan Masonic medal and a medal by Spanish sculptor Ismael Schmitz.

Chris shared six Franklin D. Roosevelt items from his new collecting theme.

Mary shared a bronze copy of the Congressional gold medal for the Monuments Men presented in Washington, D.C. on October 22, 2015.

Mark shared a Mexico 2 peso note from 1823 and a U.S. Marshall commemorative half dollar.

Bob exhibited a 1956 U.S. Mint struck medal for Texas Independence presented to the Tejas Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Drawing:

Ed won a First Federal Trust Company Saving Envelope with a Barber dime.

Chris won a George Haas & Son trade token and business card advertising "fine candies" and a 1971 silver clad Eisenhower dollar.

Jason won a Tyler & Spotswood billhead, \$100 check with ship vignette, and envelope with Panama Pacific cancellation and return unused stamped envelope. And, a Flower Manager Ribbon of the Native Sons of the Golden West for the California Midwinter International Exposition.

2015 meeting Schedule:

December 23, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

2016 meeting Schedule:

January 27, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

February 24, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

March 23, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

April 27, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

Thanksgiving Sharing:

Your bulletin editor will miss the November sharing session, but I will share a recent purchase to start the session off. An 1896 Bryan dollar had been declared damaged because someone had engraved the reverse. Far from being damaged, engraved Bryan dollars are rare and those with stories rarer still. I was able to trace this piece to the political activities of the rebellious Gold Democrats or National Democratic Party who held their convention in Indianapolis in September 1896. O.N. Frenzel was Cashier and Vice-President of the Merchants' National Bank and a spokesman for Democratic sound money principles.

